

# CLAIMS

I claim:

- Sub 1*
1. A hand held gardening implement, comprising  
a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a  
proximal end, and a distal end;  
a working element attached to said frame member at said  
proximal end of said frame member, said working element  
projecting downwardly and vertically from said frame member;  
a brace attached to said frame member at said distal  
end of said frame member; and  
a handle attached to said frame member intermediate  
said working element and said brace, said handle projecting  
upwardly and vertically from said frame member.

2. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said  
working element including a plurality of tines, whereby said  
gardening implement is a rake.

*Sub 2*

3. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said  
brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to  
distribute force developed by the hand and arm of the user  
over an increased area of the forearm of the user.

4. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said  
handle further comprising a molded grip for conforming to  
the configuration of the human hand.

5. ~~The gardening implement according to claim 1, said~~  
~~frame member comprising rod stock bent to form said working~~  
~~element, said brace, and said handle in sequential fashion~~  
~~from a unitary component.~~

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6. A hand held gardening implement, comprising  
a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a  
proximal end, and a distal end;

a plurality of tines attached to said frame member at  
said proximal end of said frame member, said plurality of  
tines projecting downwardly and vertically from said frame  
member;

a brace attached to said frame member at said distal  
end of said frame member, said brace further comprising an  
elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed  
by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of  
the forearm of the user; and

a handle attached to said frame member intermediate  
said working element and said brace, said handle projecting  
upwardly and vertically from said frame member, said handle  
further comprising a molded grip for conforming to the  
configuration of the human hand, said frame member  
comprising rod stock bent to form said working element, said  
brace, and said handle from a unitary, homogeneous  
component.

add  
B3/